

Quotes in Support of the SHINE for Autumn Act of 2022

“With 24,000 families continuing to experience stillbirth every year across the United States, we need better support, awareness, and resources to support our country’s mothers, birthing people, and families for all pregnancy outcomes,” **said Christy Turlington Burns, Founder of Every Mother Counts.** “Every Mother Counts supports the SHINE for Autumn Act that takes much needed action to increase awareness and education for birthing people and families, improve data collection, and expand resources to help address preventable stillbirth in the United States.”

“One of the greatest joys of practicing maternal-fetal medicine is helping expecting parents bring healthy babies into the world,” **said Joanne Stone, MD, MS, and President of the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine.** “Conversely, one of the most difficult things that maternal-fetal medicine subspecialists do is comfort families as they try to understand why their baby was stillborn. For patients and clinicians, there are far too many questions and far too few answers. That is why the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine supports the Stillbirth Health Improvement and Education (SHINE) for Autumn Act. We commend Senator Cory Booker and Senator Marco Rubio for championing legislation that will improve our understanding of stillbirth and help prevent future tragedies.”

“As a MOM Profit, Melinated Moms understands the importance of creating opportunities for moms and women across the Melinated Spectrum to connect, engage and empower each other with the right support behind them,” **said Jaye Wilson, Founding President/CEO of Melinated Moms.** “The SHINE Bill provides the visibility for moms and women who are often unseen and unheard to have the support they need as a mom in loss. Melinated Moms is proud to support the SHINE Bill.”

“Speaking of Birth, a non-profit devoted to respectful, high quality maternity care, is delighted to support Senator Booker in the introduction of “Stillbirth Health Improvement and Education for Autumn Act of 2022” or the ‘SHINE for Autumn Act of 2022,” **said Jill Wodnick, Founder of Speaking of Birth.** “The legislation meets a critical need; a need that is centered with grieving and gathering to incorporate stillbirth prevention as part of comprehensive maternity care resources. Part of what makes this proposed legislation essential is the comprehensive nature of the bill: coordinating data collection; linkages with clinicians; voices of families and capacity building for research for professionals to come into this field of study with the humility and drive that families need researchers to have. This legislation offers hope to families that often are not heard with the complexities and sadness of stillbirth. This legislation offers resources for public health entities to make sure that zip code specific data is coordinated. This legislation offers vision. This legislation is an example of mobilizing for a critical need that moves beyond elected party affiliation into the heart of community care and public good.”

“Central Jersey Family Health Consortium is proud to sponsor the SHINE for Autumn Act knowing the number of lives it will touch and the potential impact it will have on families during the childbirth period,” **said Robyn D’Oria, Chief Executive Officer of Central Jersey Family Health Consortium.** “In the US, over 21,000 pregnancies resulted in a stillbirth in 2019. While this number is a slight decrease from 2018, significant disparities still exist with non-Hispanic black and non-Hispanic native Hawaiian/other Pacific islander having nearly 2x the rate of

stillbirth compared to their non-Hispanic white and Hispanic counterparts. The need for education and research into the causes of stillbirth and why these disparities occur is critical if we are to decrease the incidence of stillbirth in this country. We applaud Senators Booker and Rubio for sponsoring this bill and bringing the needs of parents who experience stillbirth to the forefront as we try to decrease the incidence of this devastating event to families.”

“No family should have to experience the terrible grief and pain that comes with losing a life through stillbirth, but too many families do – and as is the case with so many health issues in our country, there are appalling racial disparities,” **said Tina Sherman, Senior Campaign Director for Maternal Justice at MomsRising.** “That’s why we are so grateful to U.S. Senators Cory Booker (D-NJ) and Marco Rubio (R-Florida) for introducing and championing the SHINE for Autumn Act.”

“The SHINE for Autumn Act is an important step towards preventing stillbirths and promoting positive health outcomes for birthing people and their babies,” **said Terrance Moore, Chief Executive Officer of the Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs (AMCHP).** “Over 20,000 babies are stillborn in the United States every year. Stark racial inequities exist with Black birthing people twice as likely to experience stillbirth as white birthing people. These statistics represent a staggering degree of devastation and loss for every family affected by stillbirth. And yet, stillbirth is a topic so rarely discussed and a public health issue that lacks significant federal investment. The SHINE for Autumn Act lays the foundation for better understanding why stillbirths occur and identifying strategies for preventing stillbirths in the future. As a national organization representing state leaders in public health dedicated to improving maternal and child health, AMCHP is proud to support the SHINE for Autumn Act and grateful to Senator Booker and Senator Rubio for their leadership on addressing stillbirth.”